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TOP SECRET
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

DEC 26 1954

Dear Mr. Dulles:

There is attached a memorandum for the Secretary of Defense from the Joint Chiefs of Staff, subject, "Changes to Operation Plan Which Implements NSC 170/1" dated 7 December 1954.

The Department of Defense concurs in the recommendation of the Joint Chiefs to revise subparagraph d, Annex A to NSC 170/1 as indicated in paragraph 2 of the subject memorandum. CIA comment or concurrence is requested in order that this may be brought to the attention of the National Security Council.

Because of the sensitive nature of the subject, this channel of communication of the Chiefs' views is considered more suitable than the accepted method of transmitting suggested changes to NSC policy documents.

In view of the necessity to hold knowledge of this subject to the minimum, it is suggested that this paper be handled strictly on a "need to know" basis.

A copy of the Joint Chiefs' of Staff memorandum has also been furnished by this office to the Secretary of State.

Sincerely yours,

H. STROVE HENSEL

1 Incl

Memo to SecDef
dtd 7 Dec 54

Honorable Allen W. Dulles

Director, Central Intelligence Agency

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TOP SECRET
THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

7 December 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Changes to Operation Plan which Implements
NSC 170/1.

1. In a letter to the Joint Chiefs of Staff dated 18 October 1954 the Commander in Chief, Far East Command, (CINCFE) stated that he was forwarding revised plans in support of NSC 170/1 (U.S. Objectives and Courses of Action in Korea). These plans have been concurred in by Ambassador Briggs and Admiral Overesch and cover the period during and after the redeployment of United Nations Command (UNC) forces. CINCFE states that they will remain workable so long as two or more U.S. divisions remain in Korea, and that they emphasize the security and non-involvement features of the NSC 170/1 missions instead of emphasizing measures intending to block possible Republic of Korea (ROK) action. CINCFE further states in effect that as the size of U.S. forces decreases in Korea our chances are proportionately reduced for retaining loyal and enthusiastic support of the ROK military forces in any undertaking involving resort to martial law to enable new South Korean leadership to assume power in the event that President Rhee initiates or is about to initiate unilateral action.

2. CINCFE recommends that in order to provide realistic guidance to the residual forces in Korea that subparagraph d, Annex A to NSC 170/1 concerning the UNC establishment of new leadership by resort to UNC military force be revised as follows:

"To develop the basis for select and encourage covertly the development of new South Korean leadership prepared to cooperate in maintaining the armistice, and if Rhee initiates or is about to initiate unilateral action, to enable assist such new leadership to assume power, by UNC-resort-to-martial law-if-necessary, means not involving overt U.S. participation until and unless U.S. overt support is necessary and promises to be decisive in firmly establishing such new leadership."

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SecDef Cont. No. 01131 103310

3. The Joint Chiefs of Staff concur in the foregoing and recommend that subparagraph d, Annex A to NSC 170/1 be modified accordingly.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

Signed

ARTHUR RADFORD,
Chairman,
Joint Chiefs of Staff.

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